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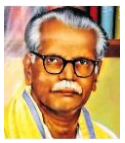

Special issue in Felicitation of Pulavar Nagasundaram

A quiet bow to a devoted scholar. 🌺

We heartily congratulate Pulavar Ayyaa Nagasundaram for his astounding accomplishment of a tremendous work in bringing out a monumental compendium of scholarly essays on the History of Tamil literature, titled Tamilāṟaṟuppaḍai Tamilāṟaṟuppaḍai is more than a literary compilation; it is a cultural manifesto. It reminds us that Tamil is not merely a language of antiquity but a living tradition capable of guiding humanity with wisdom and compassion. Together, the three volumes form a grand literary offering—an āṟṟuppaḍai indeed—guiding readers into the vast and fertile domains of Tamil civilization.

In this sense, the work stands as both homage and invitation: homage to the greatness of Tamil heritage, and invitation to future generations to cherish, preserve, and extend that legacy.

ODE TO PULAVAR NAGASUNDARAM

Guide of the Tamils' Path

O voice that rose from Tamil's ancient soil,
Like conch resounding over timeless seas,
You gathered pearls from centuries of toil
And strung them bright for unborn eyes to see.

Not merely a scholar, but a pilgrim-sage,
You walked the pathways trodden by bards of old;
Through Sangam hills and epic-shadowed age,
You sought the flame no centuries could withhold.

You heard in the winds the ancient Tamil breath,
In rivers flowing, songs of hero kings;
You read in stone the victory over death,
And woke the past with living, radiant wings.

O gentle guide of Tamilāṟaṟuppaḍai,
You led the seekers through tradition's door;
Your words became a lamp upon the way,
Your thought—a bridge from ancient shore to shore.

Not pride alone, but love your pages bear,

A love that binds the land, the tongue, the soul;

You shaped the scattered stars of wisdom fair

Into a sky that makes the reader whole.

Where poets dreamed, you walked with patient grace,

Where saints had sung, you listened, still and deep;

You traced the footprints of a noble race

And woke their glory from historic sleep.

O guardian of Tamil's deathless flame,

Your labour stands like a temple carved in stone;

Time shall not dim the lustre of your name,

Nor silence seeds of thought your words have sown.

As long as the Tamil River flows in song,

Long as the southern wind through palm trees sighs,

Your voice shall guide the hearts that wander long,

A star eternal in the Tamil skies.

……A garland woven in words. 📜

----------Maraimalai Ilakkuvanar

An introduction to Tamilāṟaṟuppaḍai (Three-Volume Series)

In the long and luminous tradition of Tamil scholarship, certain works emerge not merely as books but as guiding lamps—texts that illuminate the past, interpret the present, and inspire the future. Tamilāṟaṟuppaḍai, conceived and composed by the distinguished scholar-poet Pulavar V. Nagasundaram, stands among such noble endeavors. The present three-volume work is not simply a compilation of essays; it is a sustained intellectual pilgrimage through the vast landscapes of Tamil civilization, literature, history, and culture.

The forewords that introduce this monumental work testify to the author's lifelong devotion to the Tamil language and culture. Having dedicated his life to literary study, public lectures, and scholarly engagement, the author has gathered the fruits of decades of reflection

and research into these volumes. These essays, originally delivered in literary forums and cultural gatherings, have now been shaped into a cohesive and enduring literary offering.

A Work Born of Devotion to Tamil

The spirit that animates Tamilāṟaṟuppaḍai is one of profound love for Tamil—Tamil not merely as a language, but as a civilization, a moral vision, and a cultural inheritance. The author, deeply moved by the richness of classical Tamil texts, has drawn from Sangam literature, epics, devotional poetry, and later literary traditions to present a unified understanding of Tamil heritage.

The forewords further emphasize that this work is not confined to literary appreciation alone. It traverses multiple disciplines—history, philosophy, religion, sociology, and aesthetics—thereby presenting Tamil culture as an integrated human experience. The essays seek to bring before modern readers the intellectual grandeur and ethical depth embedded in Tamil classics.

The Scope of the Three Volumes

The three volumes of Tamilāṟaṟuppaḍai together form a comprehensive exploration of Tamil tradition. The first volume examines Sangam

landscapes, classical poetic conventions, religious movements, and historical developments. It also draws comparisons with world literature, highlighting the universal dimensions of Tamil thought.

The second volume continues this intellectual journey, delving into social life, ethical ideals, and cultural practices reflected in classical works. It presents Tamil society as a harmonious synthesis of morality, aesthetics, and lived experience.

The third volume expands the scope further, addressing philosophical reflections, literary evolution, and the enduring relevance of Tamil civilization in the modern world. Together, the three volumes form a grand narrative of Tamil identity across time.

Scholarship and Comparative Insight

One of the distinguishing features of Tamilāṟaṟuppaḍai is its comparative vision. The author draws parallels between Tamil literary traditions and world literatures, demonstrating that Tamil classics stand shoulder to shoulder with the finest works of humanity. Such comparisons elevate

Tamil literature beyond regional boundaries and affirm its universal significance.

The forewords highlight that the author not only interprets texts but also contextualizes them within history and society. Through this method, literature emerges not as isolated art but as the living voice of a civilization.

A Bridge Between Past and Present

Another notable feature of the work is its accessibility. While rooted in deep scholarship, the essays are written in a style that invites both scholars and general readers. The author acts as a guide, leading readers gently through complex literary terrains and revealing their hidden beauty.

Thus, Tamilāṟaṟuppaḍai becomes a bridge—linking classical wisdom with contemporary understanding, scholarly depth with popular appeal, and ancient heritage with modern consciousness.

A Monument of Tamil Cultural Pride

The forewords rightly celebrate this work as a significant contribution to Tamil letters. In an age when classical traditions risk being forgotten, Tamilāṟaṟuppaḍai stands as a reaffirmation of Tamil's enduring vitality. It invites readers to rediscover their cultural roots and to take pride in the intellectual achievements of their ancestors.

Conclusion

Tamilāṟaṟuppaḍai is more than a literary compilation; it is a cultural manifesto. It reminds us that Tamil is not merely a language of antiquity but a living tradition capable of guiding humanity with wisdom and compassion. The three volumes together form a grand literary offering—an āṟṟuppaḍai indeed—guiding readers toward the vast and fertile domains of Tamil civilization.

In this sense, the work stands as both homage and invitation: homage to the greatness of Tamil heritage, and invitation to future generations to cherish, preserve, and extend that legacy.